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BODY

COUNTRY: (U) NIGERIA (NF); SOUTH AFRICA (SF); CHINA (CH).

SUBJ: /SOUTH AFRICA PRESSURES CHINA TO SUPPORT
SANCTIONS AGAINST NIGERIA (U).WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED
INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED @ ~~SECRET~~./-----/
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE/-----/
DOI: (U) 951220.

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c)

SUMMARY: ~~(S)~~ SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT ((MANDELA)) IS PRESSURING THE
CHINESE TO SUPPORT HIS APPEAL FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST NIGERIA.
CHINESE OFFICIALS ARE PERPLEXED BECAUSE CHINA HAS ECONOMIC TIES
IN

BOTH COUNTRIES, BUT HAS MORE AT STAKE IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE
CHINESE

AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA WAS RECALLED FOR DISCUSSIONS ON THE ISS
UE.

TEXT: 1. ~~(S)~~ IN MID-DECEMBER 1995 THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO
NIGERIA WAS RECALLED TO BEIJING FOR CONSULTATIONS REGARDING THE
PRESSURE CHINESE OFFICIALS ARE FEELING FROM SOUTH AFRICAN
PRESIDENT

NELSON ((MANDELA)). CHINESE OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED THAT SOUTH
AFRICA WILL PRESSURE BEIJING TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL MILITARY
AND

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST NIGERIA, AND FEAR THAT MANDELA WILL
THREATEN CHINESE INTERESTS IN SOUTH AFRICA UNLESS BEIJING BACKS
SOUTH AFRICA'S CALL FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST THE NIGERIAN MILITARY
GOVERNMENT. ALSO IN MID-DECEMBER 1995, BEIJING ORDERED ITS
DIPLOMATS IN NIGERIA TO MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE AND REFRAIN FROM
MAKING ANY STATEMENTS THAT MIGHT IMPLY CHINESE SUPPORT FOR THE
MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

2. ~~(S)~~ CHINA IS ALSO BEING PRESSURED BY NIGERIA TO MAINTAIN ITS
SUPPORT FOR SANI ((ABACHA))'S GOVERNMENT. CHINA RECENTLY
CONCLUDED

NEGOTIATIONS TO REPAIR THE DELAPIDATED NIGERIAN RAILWAY SYSTEM
AND

OTHER INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS. WHILE IN CHINA, THE CHINESE

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AMBASSADOR WILL ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE CHINESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT NIGERIA IS ON THE BRINK OF CIVIL WAR AND THAT THE INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS ADVOCATED BY THE MANDELA AND OTHER NATIONS COULD PROVOKE A TOTAL BREAKDOWN OF CIVIL ORDER. THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR PLANS TO ARGUE THAT NIGERIA IS BEST RULED BY A MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND THAT CHINA HAS ALWAYS BENEFITTED POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY FROM ITS COOPERATION WITH VARIOUS NIGERIAN MILITARY LEADERS. THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR WILL ALSO POINT OUT THAT NIGERIAN CIVILIAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE TRADITIONALLY FAVORED TAIWAN OVER CHINA.

3-(S) WHILE IT IS CHINESE POLICY NOT TO INTERFERE IN A COUNTRY'S INTERNAL MATTERS, SOUTH AFRICAN PRESSURE ON CHINA MIGHT IN THIS CASE LEAD BEIJING TO AT LEAST DISTANCE ITSELF FROM THE ABACHA REGIME.

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